

IMMEDIATE RELEASE  
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## **“We’re in the Black!”: U.S. Budget Balanced without Using Social Security**

*Washington, D.C.* – Today, Congressman Ernest Istook (R-OK) joined other members of Congress in celebrating the first non-Social Security surplus since 1960.

The Congressional Budget Office released official figures today revealing that the U.S. government will take in more revenue than it spends this year--fiscal year 1999—even without counting Social Security revenues.

**“This is what we’ve been working toward,” Istook said. “The last time the federal government had a true surplus, color TV was a new novelty, hamburgers cost less than a quarter, Mickey Mantle was still going strong, and I was a kid with a crewcut riding my bicycle,” said Istook. “This good news means we can cut taxes and give taxpayers back their own hard-earned money, without taking a single penny from the Social Security Trust Fund. We haven’t held the line against spending as much as I’ve wanted, but Congress has done well enough to reach this major goal. Declaring “hands off” on spending from the trust fund is a huge help in our fight against the size of government.**

**“For forty years, Congress raided the Social Security Trust Fund to pay for other programs and big government. We’re slamming the door shut on that practice. Our challenge now is to stop the President’s plans to keep on diverting Social Security to pay for his big government agenda,” said Istook.**

**“Last year, Congress balanced the budget for the first time since 1969, but only by counting Social Security revenue, which has been the “accepted” method. Now we’ve changed the rules. From now on, we’re keeping the budget balanced *without* counting Social Security. And we’re hanging a big “Hands Off” sign on the trust fund.”**

The Congressional Budget Office confirmed that the surplus revenue generated solely from income taxes, not Social Security or Medicare, will total over \$996 billion over the next 10 years.